Procurement of foodgrains in Punjab

500. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the quantity of rice/wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India and other Government agencies from the farmers of Punjab recently alongwith the rates of each variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Rice is not procured directly from the farmers. Only paddy is procured from the farmers. As on 20.11.2001, during the current Kharif and Rabi Marketing Season, the following quantity paddy and wheat have been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Government Agencies in Punjab at Minimum Support Price.

(*Fig. in Lakh tonnes*)

Season	FCI	State Agencies	Total	Rate/Per Quintal (In Rupees)
Kharif 2001-02 (Paddy)*	23.87	70.33	94.20	Paddy (i) Common-530/- (ii) Grade' A-560/-
Rabi 2001-02 (wheat)	30.62	74.98	105.60	610.00

Prevention of sale of children

501. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 23rd September, 2001 under the heading "Nation's Name: Starving Orissa Family Sells children";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such sordid sale of children for the reasons like penury and starvation?